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**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL  
(Large Entity)***(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.  
1062/C39Total Pages in this Submission  
54**TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

ENDARTERECTOMY SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

and invented by:

Dean L. Kamen	Martin J. Kaplitt
Kevin Lee Grant	Fredric A. Newman
Larry B. Gray	Brian Daniel Tracey
Charles M. Grinnell	

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 17 pages and including the following:
  - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b. ☒ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
  - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
  - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
  - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
  - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
  - h. ☒ Detailed Description
  - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

jc922 U.S. PTO  
09/703532

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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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## Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)

a. ☐ Formal Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Informal Number of Sheets 9

4. ☒ Oath or Declaration

a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy) ☐ Unexecuted

b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)

c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney

d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)

Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche (Appendix)

7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)

a. ☐ Paper Copy

b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy (identical to computer copy)

c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

## Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))

9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)

10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)

11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations

12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment

13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard

14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing

☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL543502989US

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Large Entity)**

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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

16. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	16	- 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					\$270.00
BASIC FEE					\$710.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) Request for Recordation of Assignment					\$40.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$1,020.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$1,020.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **19-4972** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

  
Signature

Dated: November 1, 2000

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Patent Application for**  
**Endarterectomy Surgical Instrument**

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**Endarterectomy Surgical Instrument**

The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional  
5 Application, Serial No. 60/165,707, filed November 16, 1999, and incorporated  
herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention pertains to surgical instruments and  
10 procedures, and more particularly to the removal of plaque build-ups within  
blood vessels.

Background Art

Excessive plaque build-up within arteries decreases the blood flow  
15 capacity of the arteries and of the living tissue supplied by the arteries.  
Normal blood flow may be restored by either removing the plaque build-up  
or by bypassing the blocked section of the artery. In a bypass procedure, a  
second blood vessel is attached to, and parallel to, the vessel to be bypassed  
and provides a flow path around the blocked section of the artery. The  
20 second blood vessel has one end attached upstream of the blocked section  
and the second end attached downstream of the blocked section.  
Alternatively, the blockage may be removed from the artery by opening the  
artery along the blockage and removing the blockage. Both procedures  
require incisions along the blockage and become extremely invasive for  
25 extensive blockages that may run the length from the groin to the knee, for  
example.

A less invasive procedure for removing plaque build-ups requires  
only two incision points; one above the blockage and one below the blockage.  
A catheter is inserted into the artery at the up-stream incision point and is  
30 pushed toward the second incision point that is downstream from the  
blockage. The catheter head is configured to either grab or loosen the plaque  
build-up along the blockage. As the catheter is passed through the blockage,

the build-up is pushed ahead of the catheter and is removed at the second incision point. Although the catheter will remove sufficient blockage to restore normal flow, the procedure may not remove all the build-up.

Depending on the type of catheter head used in the procedure, there exists a  
5 risk that the catheter head may penetrate through the plaque build-up layer, the intima and media layers of the artery and damage the adventitia layer of the artery. In addition, the procedure does not remove the blockage from the side branches of the artery and may worsen the blockage of the side branches by a "snowplow" effect.

10 Instead of pushing a catheter through the blood flow channel of the artery, gas endarterectomy uses a gas to separate the media layer surrounding the blockage from the adventitia layer of the artery. Once separated from the adventitia layer of the artery, the blockage may be easily removed from the downstream incision point or from the initial incision  
15 point if the blockage is less than about an inch. The downstream incision point is still required because the intima and media layers of the artery attached to the blockage site must be separated from the intima and media layers of the non-blocked artery section. Although the gas endarterectomy procedure also requires two incisions, the procedure does not suffer from the  
20 "snowplow" effect of the catheter procedure and may also remove the side branch plugs along with the main blockage. In addition, all plaque is removed in a gas endarterectomy procedure because the underlying intima and media layers containing the plaque are removed.

In U.S. patent number 5,954,713 ('713) issued on September 21, 1999 to  
25 Newman, et. al., a gas endarterectomy procedure is described wherein only one incision point is required. The '713 patent describes a spatula head having an optical channel for illumination and viewing of the space in front of the spatula head, gas flow channels for the gas that separates the media layer from the adventitia layer, and liquid flow channels for clearing the  
30 optics and removing debris. In the procedure described in the '713 patent, after the spatula head is used to separate the blockage from the artery, the spatula head is removed from the artery and a surgical cutting instrument is

inserted into the artery and moved to the end of the blockage whereupon the surgical cutting instrument cuts the intima and media layers of the artery. The blockage is then removed from the artery by pulling the blockage through the incision using forceps or the surgical cutting instrument.

5           As described, however, the procedure described in the '713 patent requires two instruments: the spatula instrument and the cutting instrument. Furthermore, both instruments must be worked through the blockage. This increases the duration of the requisite operation and the risk of damage to the adventitia layer of the artery. It is thus preferable to have a single instrument  
10       that both separates the media layer from the adventitia layer and then removes the blockage.

          The media and intima layers are preferably cut at the point where the gas endarterectomy has separated the layers from the adventitia layer. Using prior art practice, damage to the adventitia may occur if the cut is made  
15       beyond the separation point. If the cut is made behind the separation point, the separated media and intima layers will form a flap within the artery. In accordance with prior art practice, a stent is usually inserted to prevent formation of the flap. The stent covers the transition region between the section of the artery where the media and intima layers have been removed  
20       with the blockage and the section of the artery where the media and intima layers are intact.

#### Summary of the Invention

          It has been observed that the media and intima layer is fairly weak at  
25       the transition between the plaque build-up and no-plaque build-up regions. Therefore, by grabbing the blockage and pulling, the blockage will tend to separate from the healthy media and intima layers at the transition without the use of a cutting tool. By eliminating the cutting tool, risk to the patient may be advantageously reduced, additionally, only the diseased portion of  
30       the media and intima layers need be removed. Furthermore, in accordance with embodiments of the invention, the break occurs at the point where the healthy media and intima layers are separated, thereby producing a

smoother transition region.

In accordance with embodiments of the present invention, a separate surgical cutting instrument may be eliminated by adding a grabbing or grasping function to the spatula head of the endarterectomy surgical instrument provided in accordance with the present invention. The spatula head contains either hooks, barbs, or prongs that can be deployed by the operator. The hooks or barbs may be retracted after deployment. A gas channel is preferably incorporated into the shaft of the instrument, either as a separate channel or with an endoscope in an optical channel.

The endarterectomy surgical instrument provided in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention has a shaft with proximal and distal ends. A head, coupled to the distal end of the shaft, has an endoscope port and at least one fluid port, while a handle, coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, has a gas supply port in fluid communication with the at least one gas port on the head, a flow valve for metering flow of gas between the gas supply port and the at least one fluid port on the head, and a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope.

In accordance with alternate embodiments of the invention, the endarterectomy surgical instrument may also have saline solution inlet coupled to the handle for coupling a flow of saline solution to the at least one fluid port on the head. Fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft may be provided through a first lumen, while an endoscope may provide optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft. The first and second lumens may be separate or identical.

The instrument may also have a grasping device with both a retracted configuration and a deployed configuration, the grasping device extending away from the head in the deployed configuration. The grasping device may be a barb or a hook, and it may be controlled by a deployment control disposed on the handle of the instrument.

In accordance with a further embodiment of the invention, there is provided an endarterectomy surgical instrument that has a shaft with proximal and distal ends and a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft.

The head has an endoscope port and at least one fluid port. A handle, coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, has a fluid supply port in fluid communication with the at least one fluid port on the head and a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope.

5

### Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1a shows a perspective view of one embodiment of the present invention in the retracted configuration;

FIG. 1b shows a perspective view of the embodiment shown in FIG 1a in the deployed configuration;

FIG. 2a shows a front view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1a;

FIG. 2b shows a front view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1b;

FIG. 3a shows a front view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1a inside an artery;

FIG. 3b shows a front view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1b inside an artery;

FIG. 4a shows a perspective view of the head in another embodiment of the invention in the retracted configuration;

FIG. 4b shows a perspective view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG 4a in the deployed configuration;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the head of another embodiment with one of the hooks not shown;

FIG. 6a shows a front view of the head inside an artery of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4a;

FIG. 6b shows a front view of the head inside an artery of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4b;

FIG. 6 shows a cut side view of the handle of the embodiment of Fig. 1a;

FIG. 7a shows a cut bottom view of the head of the embodiment shown

in FIG. 1a; and

FIG. 7b shows a cut bottom view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG 1a in the deployed configuration;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the head of another embodiment with one of the hooks not shown; and

FIG. 9 shows a cut side view of the handle of the embodiment of Fig. 8.

### Detailed Description of Specific Embodiments

FIG. 1a shows a perspective view of an embodiment of the present invention in the retracted configuration. The gas endarterectomy surgical instrument, generally designated by numeral **10** comprises a head **11**, connected to a shaft **12**, which in turn is connected to a handle **13**. The handle **13** houses a gas port **14** that connects to a gas supply, not shown. The gas flow delivered to the head **11** is controlled by a variable flow valve **15**. An endoscope latch **16** is provided on the handle **13** to secure an endoscope to the surgical instrument **10**. The handle also houses a deployment control that controls the deployment or retraction of a grasping device located in the head **11**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1a, the deployment control is a slide **17**. The handle **13** is connected to shaft **12** which is a flexible tube providing multiple lumens as now described.

In accordance with this embodiment of the invention, shaft **12** is sized to provide flow paths both for the gas from the gas supply and for saline solution to the head **11** while also accommodating the endoscope and a control wire, not shown. The control wire is attached to the slide **17** on the handle at one end and is attached to the grasping device located in the head **11** at the other end. The head **11** is attached to the end of the shaft **12** opposite the end attached to the handle **13**. The head **11** is provided with an opening that holds the end of the endoscope and also provides exit orifices for the gas and saline solution. The head **11** also contains a grasping device that may be deployed by the operation of the deployment control. FIG. 1b

shows the surgical instrument of FIG. 1a in the deployed configuration. In FIG. 1b, the slide 17 has been moved to the rear position, thereby deploying the grasping mechanism, which, in this embodiment of the invention, is a pair of barbs 18.

5        FIG. 2a shows a front view of head 11 in the retracted configuration of one embodiment of the invention. FIG. 2b shows a front view of head 11 in the deployed configuration of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2a. Head 11 has an outer side 21 that is shaped to approximate the inner wall of an artery. The inner side 22 of head 11 is generally flattened. The tip of head 11  
10        contains an endoscope port 23 and a plurality of ports 24 for the delivery of gas and/or saline solution. The gas ports are in fluid communication with the gas flow path of the shaft 12 through internal channels within the head 11. The end of the endoscope is held by the head by sizing the diameter of the endoscope port 23 to the size of the endoscope. FIG. 2b shows the front  
15        view of the head 11 in the deployed configuration. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 2b, a plurality of barbs or prongs 25 are deployed from the inner surface 22 and extend away and towards the rear of head 11.

FIG. 3a shows a front view of head 11 of one embodiment of the invention placed in the artery of a patient. The head 11 of the surgical  
20        instrument is pushed between the adventitia layer 31 of the artery and the media layer 32 of the artery with the outer side 21 of the head 11 against the adventitia layer 31 of the artery and the inner side 22 of the head 11 facing the media layer 32 of the artery. The media layer 32 encircles the intima layer, not shown, on which the plaque forms a build-up layer 33 that obstructs the  
25        blood flow channel 34. Gas jets from the gas ports 24 separates the adventitia layer 31 from the media layer 32, creating an interstitial chamber 35 through which the head 11 can travel along the blockage caused by the plaque build-up layer 33. FIG. 3b shows the front view of the head 11 shown in FIG. 3a with the barbs 25 deployed. The barbs 25 are deployed away from the inner  
30        surface 22 of the head 11 and extend into the media layer 32 and the build-up layer 33 of the obstruction. As the head 11 is pulled backward, the rear facing

barbs 25 securely grab the obstruction, thereby removing the obstruction as the head 11 is removed from the artery. The barbs 25 may also be retracted after deployment by operating the deployment control to retract the barbs 25 while slightly urging the head 11 forward.

5 FIG. 4a shows a perspective view of the head of another embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 4b shows a perspective view of the head of the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 4a with the grasping mechanism deployed. In this embodiment of the invention, the grasping mechanism comprise a plurality of hooks 43. Hooks 43 are positioned at the front of the  
10 head 41 next to the endoscope 44. Hooks 43 are housed in channels 45 that terminate at the front of the head. The hooks 43 are attached to a control wire, not shown, that is passed through the shaft 42 and connected at the other end to the deployment control, not shown, on the handle.

FIG. 5a shows a front view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4a in the  
15 artery. FIG. 5b shows a front view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 4a in the artery of a patient in the deployed configuration. The head 51 is positioned between the adventitia layer 52 and the media layer 53 of the artery. Gas from gas ports 58 is used to open an interstitial space 56 between the adventitia layer 52 and the media layer 53 to allow the head 51 to travel  
20 parallel to the build-up layer 54 and the obstructed blood flow channel 55. Each hook 43 is housed in a gas flow channel 58. Additional gas flow channels may be provided by side channels 57 on the endoscope port 59. In the deployed configuration, as shown in FIG. 5b, the each hook 43 extends forward of the head 51. As the head 51 is removed from the artery, each  
25 hook 43 grabs onto the media layer 53 and build-up layer 54 thereby removing the obstruction as the head 51 is removed from the artery.

FIG. 6 is a side cut view showing the internal channels of the handle in one embodiment of the present invention. An external gas source is connected to the surgical instrument by a gas port 14 and supplies gas to the  
30 head of the surgical instrument. In a preferred embodiment, the gas is CO<sub>2</sub>. The gas flows through the inlet passageway 610 to a variable flow valve 15,

exiting through an outlet passageway **615**. Outlet passageway **615** is connected to an endoscope passageway **616** which, in turn, is connected to the shaft **12** at the shaft end **617**.

Variable flow valve **15** comprises a knob **620** attached to a control piston **621**, the end of which may be displaced into or out of the outlet passageway **615**. The inlet passageway **610** is isolated from the outlet passageway **615** by a first sealing ring **618**. The inlet passageway **610** is maintained in fluid isolation with the environment by a second sealing ring **619**. The first sealing ring **618** is held against the handle body **605** by the control piston **621**. Control piston **621** has a notch **622** along the side of the piston **621**. As control piston **621** is displaced into the outlet passageway **615** by pressing on the knob **620**, the notch **622** is moved under the first sealing ring **618**. Notch **622** relieves the pressure placed on the first sealing ring **618** by piston **621**. The reduction of pressure placed on the first sealing ring **618** allows gas from the inlet passageway **610** to flow around the first sealing ring **618** to the outlet passageway **615**. The profile of the notch **622** is shaped such that as the piston **621** is displaced further into the outlet passageway **615**, more gas is allowed to flow into the outlet passageway **615** from the inlet passageway **610**.

Outlet passageway **615** is in fluid communication with the endoscope passageway **616** thereby allowing gas from the gas supply to flow through shaft **12**. An endoscope, not shown, may be placed in endoscope passageway **616** and through shaft **12**. The endoscope is sized to provide sufficient gas flow between the endoscope and the inner surface of shaft **12** to separate the adventitia layer from the media layer of the artery. The endoscope is held in place by an endoscope locking mechanism **16**. Endoscope locking mechanism **16** may be a latch having a latch pad **630** that holds the endoscope in place when endoscope latch **16** is in a closed position, or, alternatively, the locking mechanism may be a quarter turn lock. The endoscope is sealed by pressing the endoscope against a wiper seal **633** before locking the endoscope in place. The endoscope latch **16** may be released from the closed position to an open

position by a latch handle 632. The design of the latch handle 632 is well known to one of ordinary skill in the mechanical arts. The endoscope latch 16 is moved from a closed position to an open position by rotating the endoscope latch 16 about a pivot 631.

5 In one embodiment of the invention, the surgical instrument 10 may use either a disposable or reusable endoscope from a variety of manufacturers. For example, the INTRAMED® angioscope models 700070 (a 1.9 mm disposable), 702016 (1.9 mm diameter; reusable), or 702023 (2.4 mm diameter; reusable), all from Baxter International, Inc. may be used in the  
10 present invention. Model A5000 (1.7 mm diameter; disposable angioscope) or Model A5102 (1.7 mm diameter; reusable angioscope), both from Applied Medical Resources of Laguna Hills, CA, or instruments employing similar principles, may also be used in the present invention.

In another embodiment of the invention, surgical instrument 10 may  
15 be configured without an endoscope, allowing the physician to decide if an endoscope is necessary for the particular procedure. A plug may be used instead of an endoscope to reduce the cost of the procedure. The plug is configured to form a seal with the wiper seal 633 and to be held in place by the latch pad 630. In another embodiment, the plug may also comprise of a  
20 length of plastic or metallic material having substantiality the same diameter and length of an endoscope in order to provide additional stiffness to the shaft 12.

FIG. 7a shows a cut bottom view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1a showing the internal passageways within the head. Head 11 is  
25 attached to shaft 12. A control wire 70 is disposed inside shaft 12 and terminates in the head 11 at the wire end 71. Wire end 71 connects the end of the control wire 70 to the end of at least one barb wire 72. The opposite end of the barb wire 72 is attached to the barb 25. Control wire 70, wire end 71, barb wire 72, and barb 25 are positioned in a channel 73 to allow for free  
30 movement of the wires 70, 72, wire end 71 and barb 25 within the head 11. The channel 73 is in fluid communication with the gas port 24 and endoscope port 23.

FIG. 7b shows a cut bottom view of the head of the embodiment shown in FIG 1a in the deployed configuration. Deployment of the barb 25 is accomplished by withdrawing control wire 70 from head 11. The withdrawal of control wire 70 cause wire end 71 and the barb wire 72 to move in a rearward direction away from the endoscope port 23 and toward the handle 13. The rearward movement of the barb wire 72 pushes barb 25 along channel 73 such that barb tip 75 and barb 25 extend substantially beyond the barb channel opening 74 in the head 11.

FIG. 8 shows a perspective view of head 80 of shaft 82, in accordance with other embodiments of the invention. Shaft 82 contains at least one lumen for the delivery of gas (typically carbon dioxide) and/or saline solution via one or more ports 84. Another lumen through shaft 82 allows an endoscope to emerge at endoscope port 86. Endoscope port 86 may be shaped, like the lumen through which the endoscope is threaded, with a notch (or 'sidechannel') 87 to provide for delivery of gas and/or saline solution through the endoscope lumen. Two retractable hooks 88 are shown, whereas a third retractable hook is preferably deployed through port 90 but has been omitted to allow clearer depiction of the central region of the head.

Saline solution is delivered for purposes of keeping the endoscope clear, and thus also the image as viewed by the surgeon. Saline solution is preferably delivered through a separate lumen rather than through an endoscope with its own working channel. A separate lumen is preferred because the working channel of an endoscope is difficult to sterilize, in that it is an internal space, and thus may require the additional expense of a disposable endoscope. An endoscope having a diameter of approximately 0.9 mm and lacking a working channel is preferably employed in this embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 9 is a side cut view showing the internal channels of handle 900 in the embodiment of the present invention depicted in FIG. 8. An external gas source is connected to the surgical instrument by a gas port 914 and supplies gas to the head of the surgical instrument. In a preferred embodiment, the

gas is CO<sub>2</sub>. The gas flows through the inlet passageway 910 to a variable flow valve 906, exiting through an outlet passageway 915. Outlet passageway 915 is connected to channel 908 which carries the gas, saline solution, and control wires through shaft 82. Control wires are brought out of the proximal end of shaft 82 at control wire port 932. Endoscope passageway 916 similarly carries the endoscope through shaft 82 to which it is coupled at shaft end 917.

Variable flow valve 906 comprises a knob 920 attached to a control piston 921, the end of which may be displaced into or out of the outlet passageway 915. The inlet passageway 910 is isolated from the outlet passageway 915 by a first sealing ring 918. The inlet passageway 910 is maintained in fluid isolation from the environment by a second sealing ring 919. The first sealing ring 918 is held against the handle body 905 by the control piston 921. Control piston 921 has a notch 922 along the side of piston 921. As control piston 921 is displaced into the outlet passageway 915 by pressing on the knob 920, the notch 922 is moved under the first sealing ring 918. Notch 922 relieves the pressure placed on the first sealing ring 918 by piston 921. The reduction of pressure placed on the first sealing ring 918 allows gas from the inlet passageway 910 to flow around the first sealing ring 918 to the outlet passageway 915. The profile of notch 922 is shaped such that as the piston 921 is displaced further into outlet passageway 915, more gas is allowed to flow into the outlet passageway 915 from the inlet passageway 910.

A second line 936 couples a flow of saline solution for clearing the distal end of the endoscope, as regulated, typically, by a foot pedal 938 operated by the surgeon. Saline solution is coupled, via passageway 915, into the same channel 916 which conveys gas to the distal end of shaft 82.

Outlet passageway 915 is in fluid communication with channel 908 through which gas, saline solution, and control wires are guided to the distal end of shaft 82.

An endoscope (not shown, but represented by passageway 916) may be placed in endoscope passageway 916 and through shaft 82. The endoscope is

5 sized to provide sufficient gas flow between the endoscope and the inner surface of shaft 82 to separate the adventitia layer from the media layer of the artery. The endoscope is held in place by an endoscope locking mechanism 916 having a latch pad 930 that holds the endoscope in place when endoscope locking mechanism 916 is in a closed position.

In an alternate embodiment of the invention, gas and saline solution may be conveyed through the same passageway 916 as contains the endoscope. In this case, a gas-tight seal 933 is preferably used.

10 Having thus described various illustrative embodiments of the present invention, some of its advantages and optional features, it will be apparent that such embodiments are presented by way of example only and are not by way of limitation. Those skilled in the art could readily devise alternations and improvements on these embodiments, as well as additional  
15 embodiments, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, although a control wire is used to deploy or retract the grasping device, a collar may be attached to the endoscope end that engages the grasping device. The grasping device may be deployed or retracted by unlocking the endoscope latch on the handle and moving the endoscope forward or backward in the shaft. Alternatively, head 11 may be employed in  
20 the manner of a spatula. All such modifications are within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:
  - (a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;
  - (b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port; and
  - (c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:
    - i. a gas supply port in fluid communication with the at least one gas port on the head;
    - ii. a flow valve for metering flow of gas between the gas supply port and the at least one fluid port on the head; and
    - iii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope.
2. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a saline solution inlet coupled to the handle for coupling a flow of saline solution to the at least one fluid port on the head.
3. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen.
4. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
5. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
6. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the first lumen is identical to the second lumen.
7. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a

deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.

8. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 7, further comprising a deployment control disposed on the handle of the instrument and in mechanical communication with the grasping device.
9. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a barb.
10. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a hook.
11. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 8, wherein the deployment control is a slide.
12. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein mechanical communication between the deployment control and the grasping device includes a control wire having a first wire end and a second wire end, the first wire end connected to the grasping device and the second wire end connected to the deployment control.
13. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:
  - (a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;
  - (b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port;
  - (c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:
    - i. a fluid supply port in fluid communication with the at least one fluid port on the head; and
    - ii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope; and
  - (d) a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.
14. A method for performing endarterectomy for removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, the method comprising:

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- (a) inserting the endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1 through a single incision in the blood vessel;
- (b) providing fluid through the at least one fluid port of the head for separating intima and media layers of the artery surrounding the blockage;
- (c) grasping the blockage with a grasping device at the distal end of the endarterectomy instrument; and
- (d) removing the blockage through the incision.

### Abstract

An endarterectomy surgical instrument and method. The instrument has a shaft having proximal and distal ends, with a head coupled to the distal  
5 end of the shaft and a handle coupled to the proximal end. The head has an endoscope port and at least one fluid port while the handle has a gas supply port and a flow valve for metering flow of gas between the gas supply port and the at least one fluid port on the head as well as a latch for retaining the head of an endoscope. Gas may be conveyed from the handle to the head in a  
10 lumen separate from that containing the endoscope.

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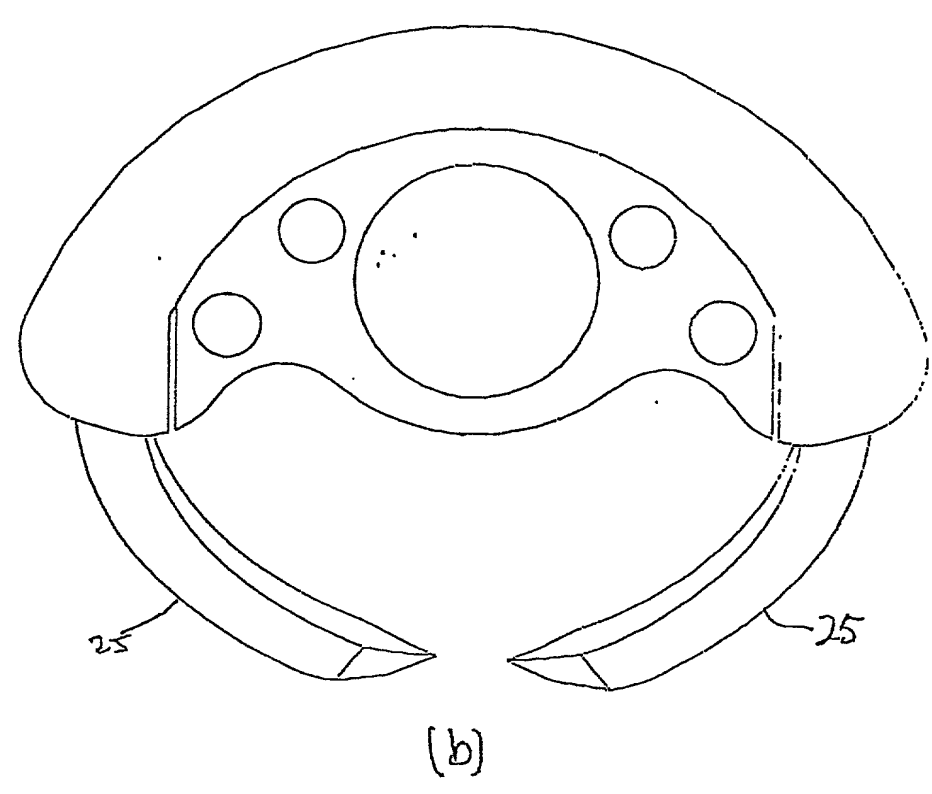
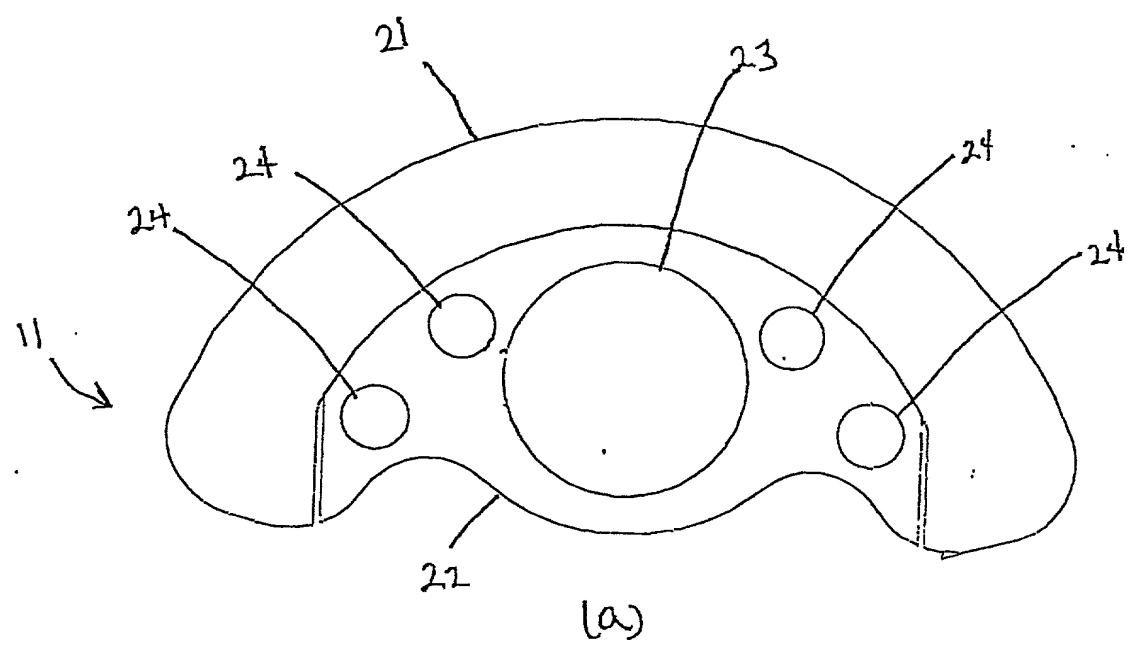
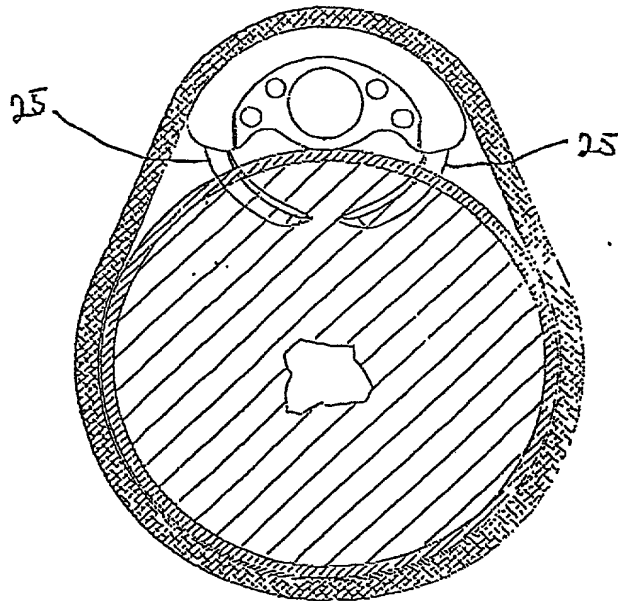
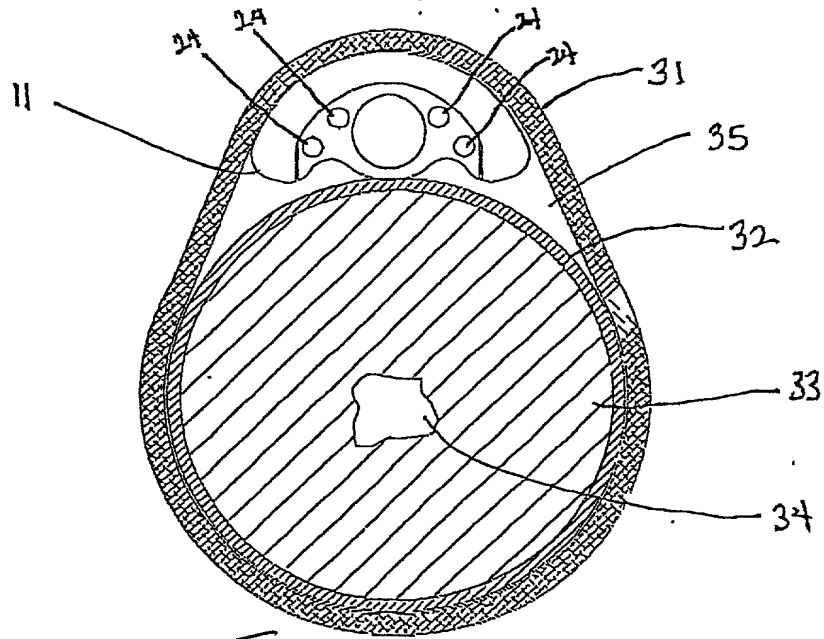


FIG. 2



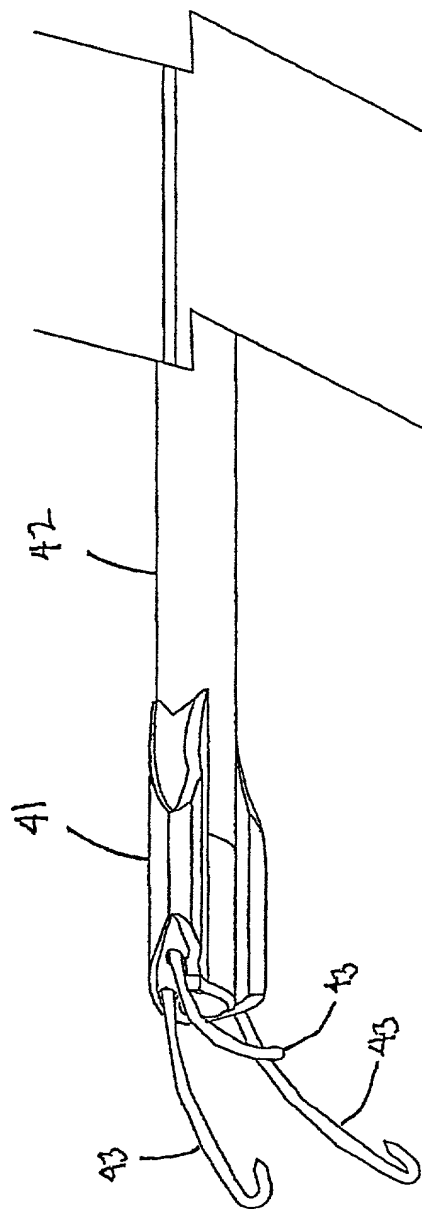
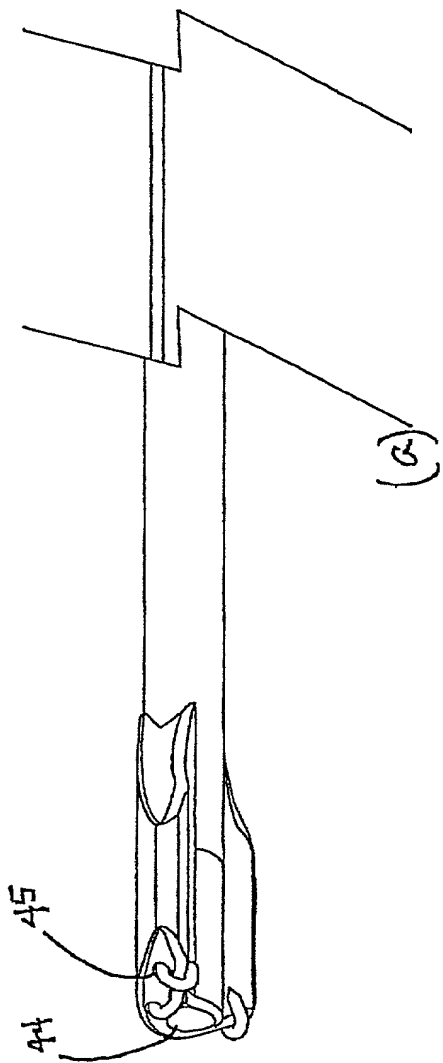


FIG. 4

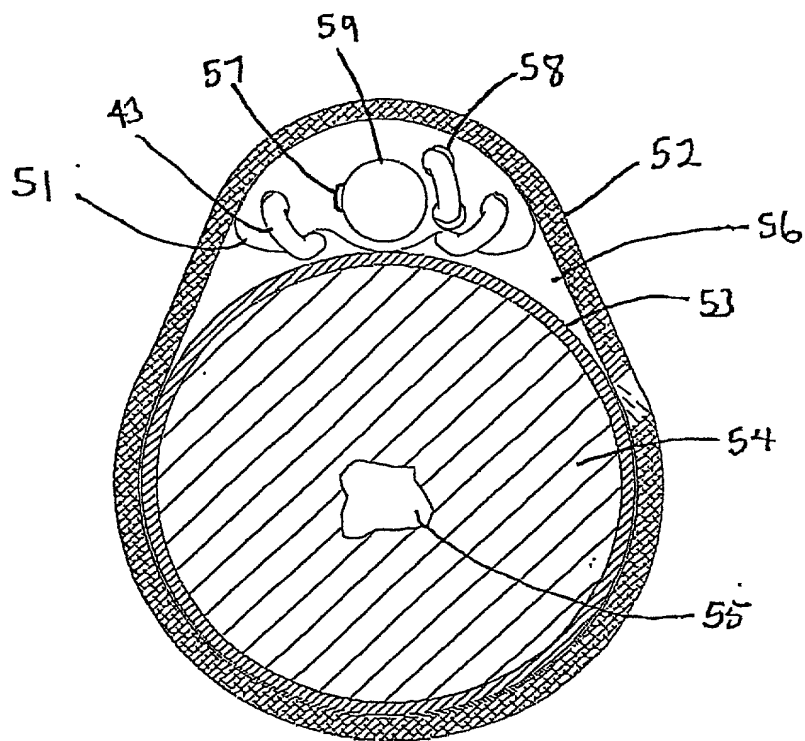


Fig. 5 (a)

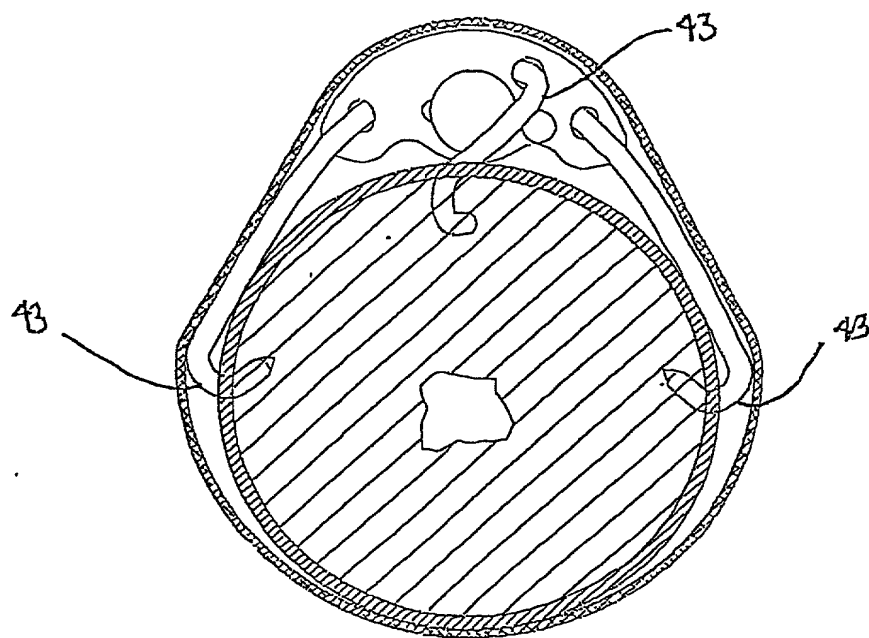


Fig. 5 (b)

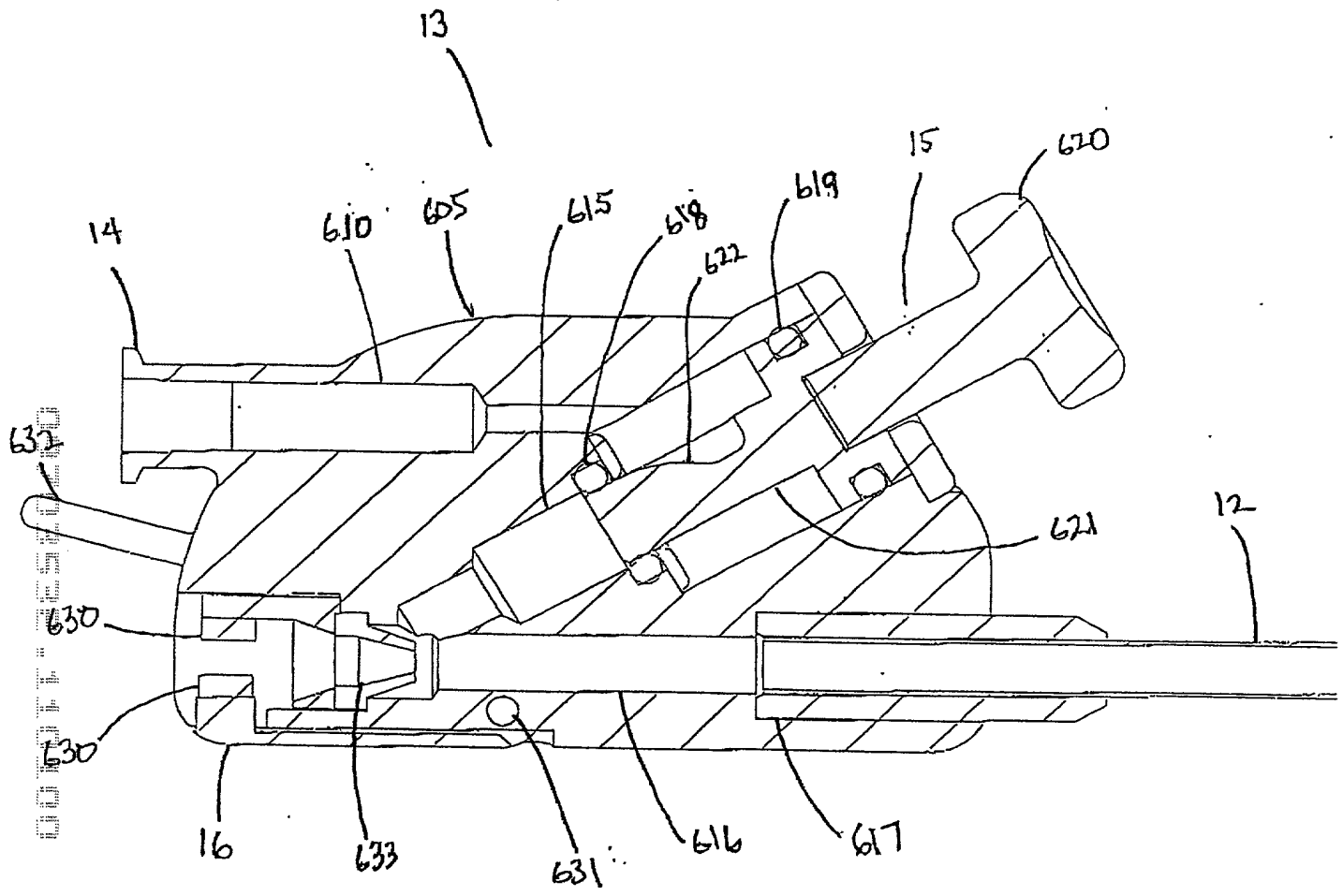
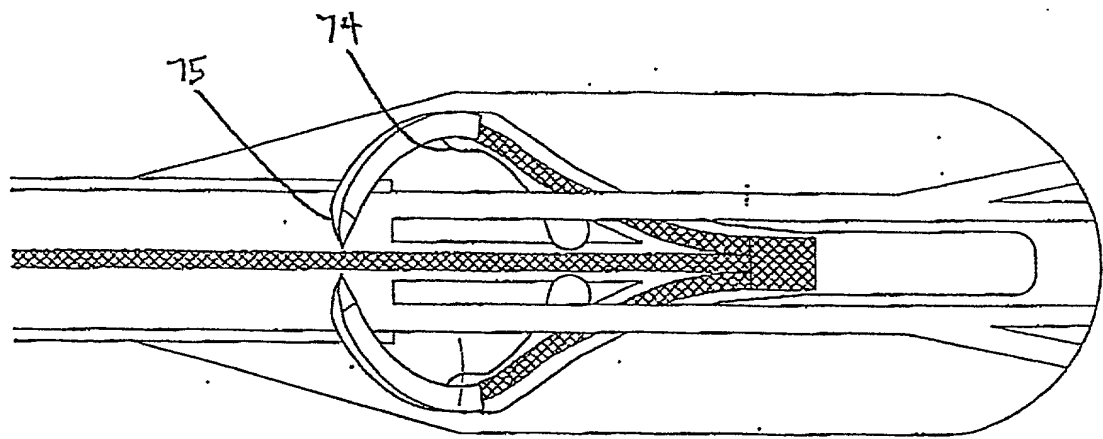
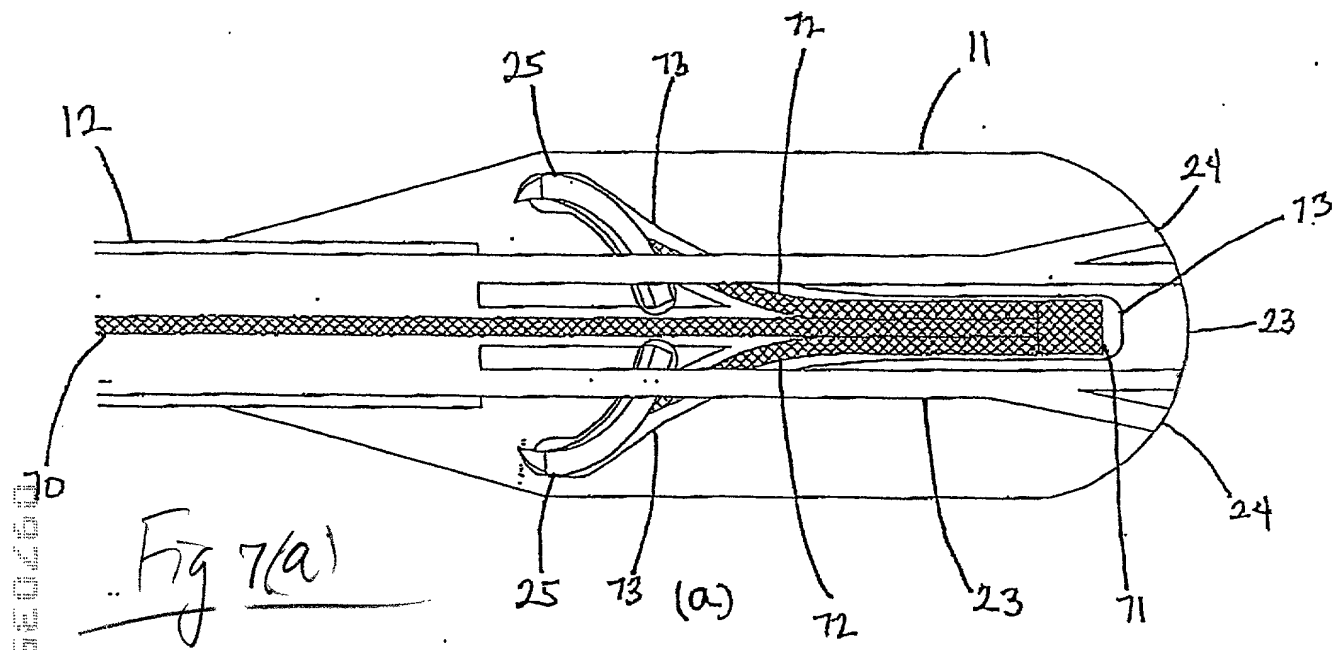


Fig. 6





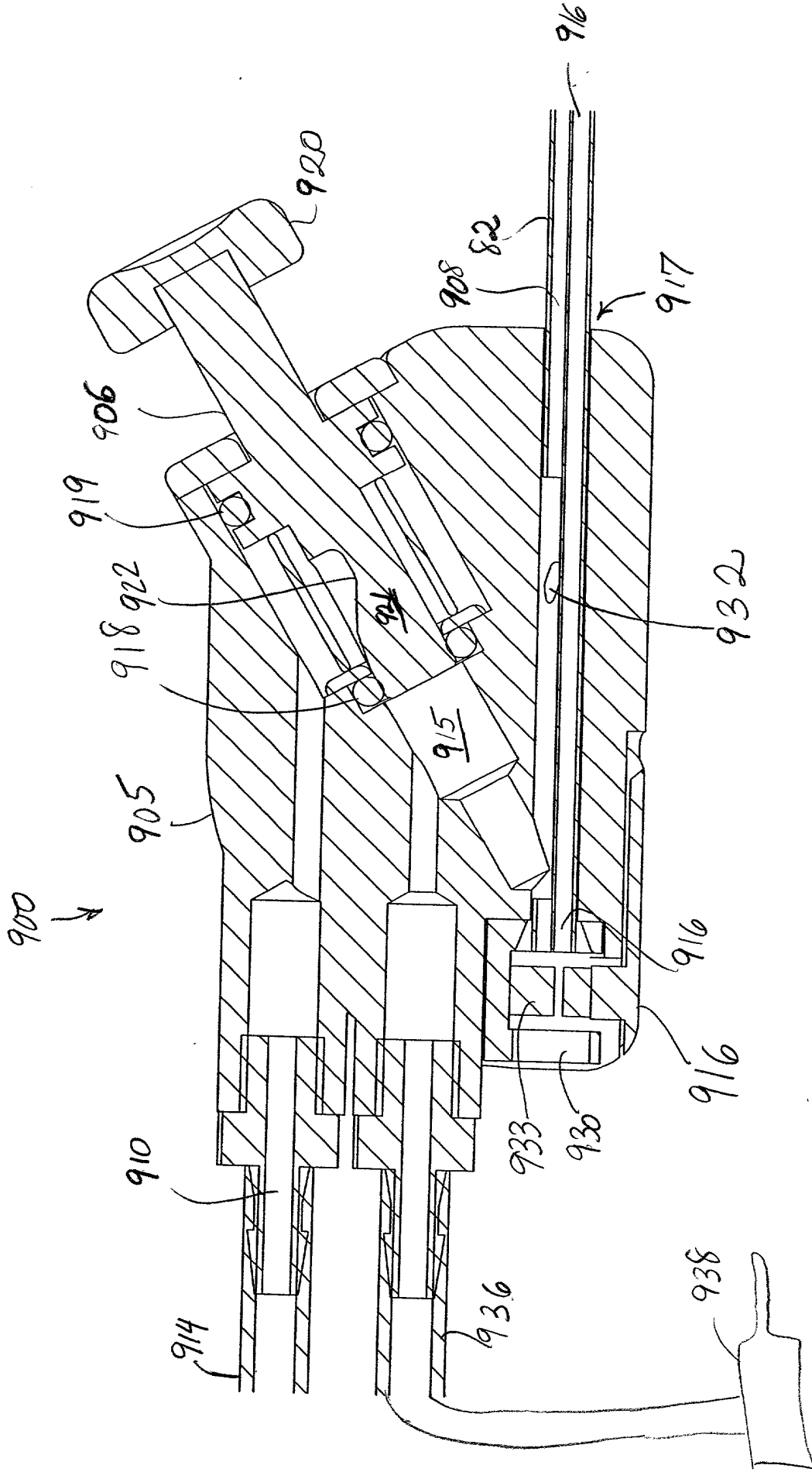


Fig. 9

Docket No.  
1062/C39

# Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

## English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**ENDARTERECTOMY SURGICAL INSTRUMENT**

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Not Claimed
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

60/165,707	November 16, 1999
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

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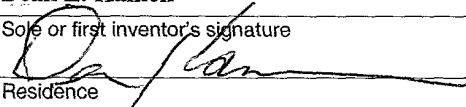
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

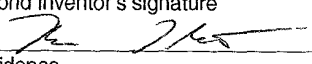
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(list name and registration number)*

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Steven G. Saunders	36,265		
John J. Stickevers	43,193		
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Third inventor's signature <i>Larry B. Gray</i>	Date <i>10/20/00</i>
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Seventh inventor's signature <i>B. Tracy</i>	Date <i>10/25/00</i>
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Full name of eighth inventor, if any	
Eighth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of ninth inventor, if any	
Ninth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of tenth inventor, if any	
Tenth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Docket No.  
1062/C39

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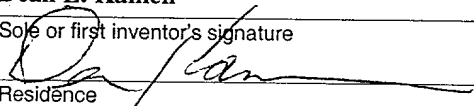
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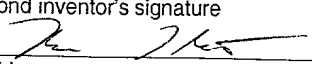
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Eighth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of ninth inventor, if any	
Ninth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

Full name of tenth inventor, if any	
Tenth inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	